

Press Release
For Immediate Release
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Black-footed Ferret Day

Saturday, September 24, 2016
1:00pm – 3:00pm

On Saturday, September 24 the Amarillo Zoo will be celebrating one of the most endangered mammals in North America – the Black-footed Ferret . Once thought to be extinct the ferret was re-discovered on September 26, 1981 near Meeteetse, Wyoming giving hope to a species that was until then considered extinct. Through conservation efforts the ferret has been slowly making a comeback and today their numbers are estimated at over a thousand in captive breeding and release programs. Unlike the domestic ferret seen in pet shops, the Black-footed Ferret was once a common fixture in the Great Plains including the Texas Panhandle. With the disappearance of the large expansive Prairie Dog towns the ferret along with other species depend on these communities for food and shelter also disappeared. Today through the conservation and breeding programs through the U.S Fish and Wildlife Services and Zoos the ferret is slowing making a comeback.

The Amarillo Zoo is one of only 24 Zoos in the country that is permitted to exhibit the ferret.

On Saturday, September 24 we would like to invite others to join us in a fun and educational tribute to this remarkable animal. Activities will include keeper chats, wildlife shows, children's crafts and the opportunity to see the Black-footed Ferret on exhibit in the Zoo's education center.

There will also be a ceremonial check presentation from the Amarillo Zoo volunteers to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Black-footed Recovery Program. The Zoo volunteers raised \$2,500 to help support the on-going conservation and recovery efforts of this important prairie species.

For more information about the Zoo please go to our website amarillozoo.org or like us on FaceBook!

The Amarillo Zoo is located at NE 24th Ave and Dumas Highway inside Thompson Park